

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 SCI-06

FEA-02 OMB-01 DRC-01 /167 W
----- 098276

R 141645Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6910

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

USINT BAGHDAD

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

EO 11652: NA DECON 3/14/75

TAGS: PFOR UR US XF

SUBJ: SOVIET ATTITUDE RE CURRENT ME DEVELOPMENTS

REF: BEIRUT 945 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: WE HAVE BEEN INTRIGUED OVER PAST FEW DAYS BY
FACT THAT SOVIET INFO MEDIA IN ME, NOTALY MOSCOW-
CONTROLLED LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY (LCP) ORGANS AND
ARABIC-LANGUAGE BROADCASTS BY RADIO MOSCOW, HAVE BEEN
OPPOSING LIFTING OF ARAB OIL EMBARGO AGAINST US. FROM
WHAT COMMUNIST MEDIA AND SOV OFFICIALS ARE SAYING
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HERE, IT QUITE CLEAR THEY ARE VERY VEXED BY PREEMINENT

US ROLE IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT TO DATE AND AT RECENT
MOVES BY EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA, IN PARTICULAR, TO
LIFT OIL EMBARGO IN RECOGNITION OF US HELPFULNESS. END SUMMARY.

1. ON EVE OF TRIPOLI OIL MEETING, LOCAL PRESS REPORTED
MAR 13 THAT RADIO MOSCOW'S ARABIC LANGUAGE SERVICE
HAD BEGUN STRONGLY TO ATTACK "CERTAIN ARAB LEADERS
WHO ARE DISPOSED TO SUBMIT TO AMERICAN PRESSURES" RE
LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO "IN DEFIANCE OF WILL OF ARAB
WORLD AND OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES ALL OVER THE WORLD WHO
INSIST ON CONTINUED USE OF OIL WEAPON" AGAINST US.
SAME TIME HAS BEEN CONSISTENTLY ECHOED IN LOCAL
MOSCOW-CONTROLLED ORGANS, WITH LCP WEEKLY AL AKHBAR AS
EARLY AS MAR 2 CASTIGATING SADAT FOR "FALLING INTO
EVIL TRIP SET BY AMERICAN IMPERIALISM TO EXTRACT INCREASING
CONCESSIONS FROM EGYPT." AKHBAR CLAIMED "FAIT
ACCOMPLI" OF KISSINGER-INSPIRED SUEZ DISENGAGEMENT HAD
PLACED SYRIA IN DIFFICULT POSITION OF TRYING TO PRESERVE
BASIC ARAB INTERESTS IN FACE OF EGYPTIAN PRESSURES
TO LIFT EMBARGO. NOTING "CLEAR DIFFERENCES"
BETWEEN SADAT'S "EVALUATION OF NIXON'S AND KISSINGER'S
INTENTIONS" AND SARG'S "JUSTIFIABLY STRONG RESERVATIONS"

RE THOSE INTENTIONS, MAGAZINE CALLED ON ALL ARAB AND
FOREIGN "NATIONALIST, PROGRESSIVE AND ANTI-IMPERIALIST
FORCES" TO UPHOLD SYRIA IN RESISTING TREND TOWARD
"APPEASING" US.

2. BOTH AKHBAR AND LCP DAILY, AN NIDA, HAVE ALSO C
CONSISTENTLY RAILED AGAINST SADAT'S ALLEGED ATTEMPTS TO

DENIGRATE NASSERISM, "LIQUIDATE" GAINS OF EGYPTIAN
REVOLUTION, BESMIRCH USSR, AND OTHERWISE PLAY TODAY TO
SINISTER US AMBITIONS. AT SAME TIME, THEY HAVE PLAYED
UP RELUCTANCE OF CERTAIN OTHER ARAB STATES TO LIFT OIL
EMBARGO AND LAVISHED PRAISE ON SYRIA FOR RESISTING US
PRESSURES THANKS TO TIMELY SOVIET SUPPORT (E.G.,
BREZHNEV MESSAGE TO ASSAD ON EVE OF LATEST KISSINGER
VISIT TO DAMASCUS AND JOINT SOV-SARG COMMUNIQUE RESULTING
FROM GROMYKO'S SUBSEQUENT TALKS WITH ASSAD).
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CENTRAL THEMES IN ABOVE CAMPAIGN ARE THUS EGYPTIAN
PERFIDY, SYRIAN STEADFASTNESS, AND NEED FOR ARABS TO
MAINTAIN CONFRONTATION WITH USG, PARTICULARLY WITH
RESPECT TO OIL EMBARGO.

3. WE ARE TOLD BY RELIABLE SOURCES THAT SOV TOURISM
OFFICIAL AND SENIOR ISVESTIA REPRESENTATIVE CURRENTLY
VISITING BEIRUT HAVE BEEN ECHOING SAME THEMES IN THEIR

TALKS WITH LOCAL OFFICIALS AND NEWSMEN, AS WELL AS CONVEYING
CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT MOSCOW IS DEFINITELY VEXED
AT ATTENTION GIVEN TO US ROLE IN ME SETTLEMENT EFFORT TO
DATE AND URGING ARABS TO REVERSE THIS TREND. SOVS AND
LOCAL COMMUNISTS ALSO PUSHING LINE THAT ONLY BOURGEOISIE
WILL PROFIT FROM ANY IMPROVEMENT OF ECONOMIC SITUATION
IN EGYPT, POINTING TO REPORTS OF ANTI-NASSER CAMPAIGN
AS EVIDENCE THAT PRESENT EGYPTIAN GOVT HAS ABANDONED
SOCIALIST THREATS FOR CAPITALISM.
GODLEY

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